

In the claims:

Please substitute the following full listing of claims for the claims as originally filed or most recently amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising:

means for accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) application;

means for prompting a user through a series of screens to enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills requested to provide a detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee;

means for selecting suppliers;

means for submitting ~~the request~~ a notification to contracted suppliers selected in said selecting step by e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA application;

means for ~~them~~ said suppliers to retrieve and review said detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee and submit a candidate against said detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee;

means for receiving from a supplier a candidate or candidates with appended resumes, as appropriate; and

means for displaying for the user the supplier responses and associated resumes.

2. (Currently Amended) The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, wherein the SMA and REQ/CAT applications ~~are~~ are Web-based and an SMA Web site is provided for suppliers to access to view request details and submit a candidate or candidates.

3. (Previously Presented) The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, further comprising means for responding to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an approval and procurement process.

4. (Currently Amended) A Web-based Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising:

means for accessing the SMA from a Web-based Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) Web application;

means for selecting by a user who needs to request a technical contractor a SMA Web site;

means for prompting the user through a series of screens in the SMA Web site to enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills requested to provide a detailed statement of required employee skills and abilities;

means for selecting suppliers;

means for submitting ~~the request~~ a notification

to contracted suppliers selected in said selecting step who are sent an e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA application ~~for them to and review and submit a candidate against;~~

means for ~~accessing~~ suppliers to access the SMA Web site database by a supplier to view the detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee of a said request ~~details;~~

means for providing, by a supplier, a candidate or candidates by accessing the SMA Web site and submitting candidates and appending resumes as appropriate; and

means for viewing, by the user, the supplier responses and associated resumes and either accepting or rejecting each candidate submitted.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer system running Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising:

means for accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) application also running on the computer system;

a display system for prompting a user through a series of screens to enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills requested to provide a detailed statement of required employee skills and abilities;

means for selecting suppliers;

transmitting means for submitting ~~the request a~~ notification to contracted suppliers selected in said

selecting step by e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate against;

means for retrieving and reviewing said detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee in response to said notification; and

receiving means for receiving, from a supplier, a candidate or candidates with appended resumes as appropriate, said display system displaying, for the user, the supplier responses and associated resumes.

6. (Original) The computer system of claim 5, wherein the SMA and REQ/CAT applications are Web-based and an SMA Web site running on the computer system is provided for suppliers to access to view request details and submit a candidate or candidates.

7. (Original) The computer system of claim 5, further comprising means for responding to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an approval and procurement process running on said computer system.